

## **Measurement and Verification**

The Workgroup recognizes that the recommended forest management offset/credit system is complex and that credibility in regional, national, and international markets requires a strong system of verification. At the same time, the Workgroup recognizes the need for administrative simplicity so as not to erect unnecessary barriers to otherwise qualifying offset projects. Adapting existing monitoring and sampling systems where applicable, and paying careful attention to roles can help address this issue.

### Variables to be Verified

In general, the Workgroup recommends that verification be focused on:

- Methods of estimating business-as-usual baseline for participating entities
- Methods of designing and estimating the effects of carbon offset projects on all storage pools
- Actual achievement of additional carbon storage above baseline in all pools.

### Methodological Standards

The Workgroup did not have time to adequately discuss this topic. However, there is general agreement on the following:

- Standards for methodology need to be established.
- Adapting existing systems familiar to Washington's forest offset providers would increase administrative simplicity and reduce cost. These include standard forest inventory methods as a proxy or precursor to measurement of carbon.
- There is a need for liquidity within regional, national, and international markets, and harmonized measurement and verification methodologies can promote that liquidity.

### Roles of Various Parties

The Workgroup recognizes a strong role for the state, or a regional market institution, in establishing standards, in a transparent and open manner, for measurement and verification methodologies. Beyond standard-setting, implementation of measurement and verification requirements could be performed by the state directly, by independent 3<sup>rd</sup>-party verifiers acting under state or regional authorization, by offset providers themselves operating under state standards with spot-checking and penalties for false reporting, or some combination.

The Workgroup recommends that Washington work proactively with other WCI partners in development of verification requirements within the regional cap-and-trade system recommended by WCI.

### Cost of Verification

The Workgroup reached no conclusions regarding this topic, other than to recognize the desirability of keeping costs low while ensuring carbon offsets meet applicable standards.

#### Verification Timing

See section on Permanence/Enforceability for Workgroup recommendations.

#### Overall System Monitoring

The Workgroup recommends a state-sponsored system of overall monitoring of forestland in Washington to periodically evaluate the performance of the forestry carbon offset/credit measures recommended here. The state should coordinate with the Federal Forest Inventory & Analysis program.